



AGRI-FACTS

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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MARCH REVIEW

Good moisture was reported throughout the state. Winter wheat was in fair to excellent condition overall, but later in the month the crop was reported to be lacking in nitrogen due to the large amount of moisture. Producers were busy planting potatoes, small grains, vegetables and dry peas, weather permitting. Walla Walla sweet onions looked good but some damage was showing on winter red onions from a February freeze. Fruit trees were leafing out and blooming in warmer areas. There is still some pruning taking place in the later season areas. Spring calving and lambing continued and pasture growth was increasing. Supplemental feeding continued and livestock was being moved to drier pastures.

GRAIN STOCKS

Olympia - The quantity of **wheat** stored in all positions in Washington on March 1, 2006 was higher than the quantity being stored on March 1 a year earlier. Wheat stocks in Washington totaled 83.5 million bushels, an increase of 24 percent from March 1, 2005. This is the largest March 1 wheat stocks since 2003. **Wheat** stored on farms in Washington on March 1, 2006, totaled 9.5 million bushels, up 2.5 million bushels from March 1, 2005. Off-farm wheat stocks totaled 74.0 million bushels, up 23 percent from a year ago.

The quantity of wheat stored in the **Pacific Northwest** (Washington, Oregon, and Idaho), on March 1, 2006 totaled 137.3 million bushels, 15 percent higher than last year. On-farm stocks, at 26.5 million bushels, were up 5.0 million bushels from last year. Holdings off-farm were 110.8 million bushels, 13 percent above a year ago. The quantity of wheat stored in the United States totaled 972.2 million bushels, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Washington on-farm **barley** stocks, on March 1, 2006, totaled 700 thousand bushels, down 300 thousand from a year ago. The quantity of barley stored in the state's off-farm storages was 5.5 million bushels, a decrease of 28 percent from the quantity in storage on March 1, 2005. Pacific Northwest barley stocks in all positions totaled 51.6 million bushels on March 1, 2006, an increase of 7 percent from the quantity in storage on March 1, 2005. Nationally, barley stocks in all positions totaled 166.6 million bushels, down 13 percent from last year.

GRAIN STOCKS: MARCH 1, 2005, DECEMBER 1, 2005 1/, & MARCH 1, 2006

Crop/ Quarter	Washington			Pacific Northwest 2/			United States		
	On-Farm	Off-Farm 3/	Total	On-Farm	Off-Farm 3/	Total	On-Farm	Off-Farm 3/	Total
1,000 Bushels									
Wheat									
Mar. 1, 2005	7,000	60,036	67,036	21,500	97,882	119,382	304,710	679,681	984,391
Dec. 1, 2005	16,000	100,600	116,600	50,000	156,053	206,053	513,010	916,414	1,429,424
Mar. 1, 2006	9,500	73,951	83,451	26,500	110,834	137,334	256,000	716,240	972,240
Barley									
Mar. 1, 2005	1,000	7,673	8,673	19,350	28,725	48,075	79,680	111,001	190,681
Dec. 1, 2005	1,300	6,542	7,842	24,850	37,438	62,288	103,650	104,335	207,985
Mar. 1, 2006	700	5,514	6,214	19,500	32,118	51,618	68,400	98,164	166,564
Oats									
Mar. 1, 2005	*	278	*	*	910	*	43,500	38,946	82,446
Dec. 1, 2005	*	138	*	*	758	*	60,100	35,617	95,717
Mar. 1, 2006	*	106	*	*	535	*	41,900	32,812	74,712
Corn									
Mar. 1, 2005	*	9,438	*	*	12,631	*	4,137,000	2,619,334	6,756,334
Dec. 1, 2005	*	12,331	*	*	15,462	*	6,325,000	3,489,957	9,814,957
Mar. 1, 2006	*	6,921	*	*	11,038	*	4,055,000	2,932,178	6,987,178

1/ Revised.

2/ Includes Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

3/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.

* Data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

ONIONS: AREA PLANTED BY SEASON & STATE, 2004-2006

State	Area Planted			2006 as % of 2005
	2004	2005	2006	
Spring 1/ Summer (Non-Storage) 1/	39,900	40,000	40,200	Percent 101%
California	8,800	9,100	9,200	101%
Nevada	3,400	2,400	2,400	100%
New Mexico	7,300	6,500	6,500	100%
Texas	2,900	1,000	1,000	100%
Washington 2/	1,500	1,400	1,400	100%
Total Non-Storage	23,900	20,400	20,500	101%
Storage				
California 3/	30,900	28,900	29,900	103%
Colorado	12,500	10,000	10,500	105%
Idaho	11,000	9,700	9,900	102%
New York	13,500	13,800	13,400	97%
Oregon: Malheur	12,500	11,400	11,800	104%
Other	7,400	7,700	7,900	103%
Washington	20,000	19,500	19,000	97%
Other States	8,000	7,820	8,000	102%
Total Storage	115,800	108,820	110,400	101%
Total Summer	139,700	129,220	130,900	101%
United States	179,600	169,220	171,100	101%

1/ Primarily fresh market. 2/ The 2004 forecast includes Walla Walla and other non-storage onions.

3/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing.

ASPARAGUS (SPRING): YIELD & PRODUCTION 1/

State	Area			Yield Per Acre		Production	
	Harvested		For Harvest 2006	2004	2005	2004	2005
	2004	2005					
	Acres			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
California	34,000	29,000	24,500	35	36	1,190	1,044
Michigan	13,500	12,000	11,000	20	19	270	228
Washington	14,000	13,000	10,000	43	41	602	532
Total	61,500	54,000	45,500	34	33	2,062	1,804

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

VEGETABLES FOR PROCESSING: PLANTED ACREAGE

Crop & State	Planted Acres				2006 Contract as a % of 2005 Contract
	2004 Total	2005		2006 Contract Intentions 1/	
		Total	Contract 1/		
Sweet Corn	Acres				Percent
Washington	96,100	81,900	81,900	84,100	103%
Oregon	28,500	23,200	23,200	29,600	128%
United States	412,700	421,610	421,010	399,900	95%
Green Peas					
Washington 2/	35,600	34,200	34,200	32,500	95%
Oregon 2/	17,700	16,200	16,200	20,300	125%
United States	214,700	215,700	215,700	221,000	102%

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ 2005 revised.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS



Washington growers expect to plant fewer acres of barley and field corn in 2006 compared with 2005 while increasing acres of spring wheat, dry beans, hay, and sugarbeets. Winter wheat and oat acreage is unchanged from last year. Above normal precipitation across the Pacific Northwest improved soil moisture with the snowpack in the upper elevations expected to provide an additional boost in the spring.

Nationwide, **winter and spring barley** acres planted for harvest in 2006 is estimated at 3.67 million acres compared with 3.88 million acres in 2005. If realized, this will be the lowest barley acreage on record. Washington producers will seed 205,000 acres, 10,000 acres fewer than last year and the lowest acreage since 1953. Oregon's barley acres dipped to 50,000 and Idaho's fell from 630,000 to 600,000 acres, the lowest since 1968. **Sugarbeet** acreage in Washington rose 100 acres to 1,800 which is the first year-to-year increase in five years but still the lowest acreage ever in the State. Nationwide, the 2006 crop year is expected to total 1.37 million acres, 6 percent higher than the 2005 planted acreage. Factories have been contracting more acres this year to compensate for tight sugar stocks caused by last year's hurricanes in the sugarcane-producing Gulf Coast States.

Acres of **hay** for harvest in Washington rebounded to 780,000 acres, up 40,000 acres from 2005. Oregon's acres declined 20,000 acres while Idaho's acreage was unchanged. Nationally producers expect to harvest 61.5 million acres, down fractionally from 2005.

Field corn acres in Washington slipped for the second year to 135,000 acres, from 150,000 acres in 2005. Oregon and Idaho growers expect to plant 3,000 and 5,000 fewer acres, respectively. Planted acres of **oats** in Washington was expected to reach 25,000 acres in 2006, the same as in 2005. A total of 4.32 million acres of oats is expected to be seeded by U.S. growers for the 2006 crop year. This will be up 2 percent from last year's planted acres.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS: SELECTED STATES & UNITED STATES, 2004-2006 1/

Crop	Washington			Oregon		Idaho		United States		
	2004	2005	Ind. 2006 2/	2005	Ind. 2006 2/	2005	Ind. 2006 2/	2004	2005	Ind. 2006 2/
1,000 Acres										
All Wheat	2,330	2,280	2,310	955	910	1,260	1,240	59,674	57,229	57,128
Winter	1,800	1,850	1,850	830	800	770	750	43,350	40,433	41,404
Spring	530	430	460	125	110	470	470	13,763	14,036	13,899
Barley	250	215	205	65	50	630	600	4,527	3,875	3,667
Oats	20	25	25	40	45	90	80	4,085	4,246	4,324
Corn	170	150	135	53	50	235	230	80,929	81,759	78,019
Dry Beans 3/	30.0	49.0	70.0	9.0	12.0	100.0	100.0	1,354.3	1,665.0	1,710.3
Sugarbeets 4/	3.8	1.7	1.8	9.8	11.0	169.0	188.0	1,345.6	1,294.8	1,371.8
All Hay 5/	790	740	780	1,000	980	1,410	1,410	61,966	61,649	61,478

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

2/ Intended plantings in 2006 as indicated by reports from farmers.

3/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

4/ Relates to year of intended harvest in all States except CA. In CA, relates to year of planting for over wintered beets in central and southern CA or year of planting for over wintered beets in central and southern CA.

5/ Intended area harvested in 2006 as indicated by reports from farmers.

PRICES

AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS FOR FARM PRODUCTS (DOLLARS/UNIT)

Commodity	Unit	Entire Month		Prelim. Mar. 2006	Entire Month		Prelim. Mar. 2006	U.S. Parity Price
		Mar. 2005	Feb. 2006		Mar. 2005	Feb. 2006		
		Washington			United States			
Wheat, All	Bu.	3.61	3.21	3.21	3.42	3.66	3.71	10.30
Wheat, Spring	Bu.	3.98	3.56	3.51	3.51	3.83	3.83	-
Wheat, Winter	Bu.	3.50	3.12	3.13	3.32	3.59	3.67	-
Barley	Bu.	2.11	1.97	1.98	2.49	2.57	2.55	7.15
Corn	Bu.	-	-	-	2.02	2.02	2.01	7.65
Oats	Bu.	-	-	-	1.73	1.82	1.77	4.25
Lentils 1/	Cwt.	-	-	-	13.50	11.00	10.50	-
Chickpeas, All 1/	Cwt.	-	-	-	29.00	26.40	29.70	-
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	-	-	-	26.60	17.40	19.50	54.00
Dry Edible Peas 1/	Cwt.	-	-	-	5.64	4.97	5.03	-
Potatoes, All	Cwt.	5.35	6.10	6.50	6.44	7.44	8.31	15.80
Potatoes, Processing	Cwt.	5.20	5.30	-	5.38	5.57	-	-
Hay, All (baled) 2/	Tons	103.00	114.00	118.00	92.60	95.00	97.10	-
Alfalfa (baled) 2/	Tons	100.00	110.00	115.00	98.60	99.20	100.00	-
Other Hay (baled) 2/	Tons	115.00	125.00	125.00	77.80	83.20	86.60	-
Hops	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.75
Apples, Fresh 3/	Lbs.	0.180	0.258	0.257	0.184	0.259	0.256	0.519
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	-	-	-	91.00	92.40	89.20	190.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	-	-	-	95.20	97.80	94.10	-
Calves	Cwt.	-	-	-	136.00	142.00	138.00	263.00
Milk Cows 4/	Head	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Broilers , live 5/	Lbs.	-	-	-	0.440	0.380	0.370	-
Eggs, Market 2/	Doz.	0.400	0.340	0.570	0.327	0.301	0.499	1.75
Milk, All Wholesale 6/ 7/	Cwt.	15.30	13.60	13.50	15.60	13.50	12.80	37.90
Hogs, All	Cwt.	-	-	-	51.20	42.60	42.40	115.00
Sheep	Cwt.	-	-	-	49.00	46.00	-	94.00
Lambs	Cwt.	-	-	-	114.00	96.80	-	229.00

1/ Monthly estimates began July 2003.

2/ All prices are mid-month estimates.

3/ Equivalent packinghouse door returns for apples for CA, NY, and WA. Prices at point of first sale for other states.

4/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices available for January, April, July, and October.

5/ Equivalent liveweight returns to producers for most states. Includes growers and contractors.

6/ March 2006 U.S. Butterfat test percent was 3.72 for all milk.

7/ Before deduction for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.